Proposal to close down CGHS

2850. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to wind up Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has planned to introduce new health card system to Central Government employees; and

(d) whether Government is aware of the failure of health card system in the United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No proposal is under consideration of the Government either to wind up CGHS or to issue health Cards.

Initiative for curbing declining sex ratio

†2851. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take a major policy initiative to curb the declining sex ratio in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said measures and policy initiatives are expected to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994 by the Government of India. This Act came into force in 1996.

The Act was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection and/or sex determination in order to curb the decline in the child sex ratio as revealed by the Census 2001. With effect from 14.2.2003, due to the amendments, the Act is known as the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

The main purpose of enacting the PC and PNDT (prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has been to:

(i) Ban the use of sex selection techniques before on after conception;

(ii) Prevent the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions:

(iii) Regulate such techniques

Stringent punishments have been prescribed under the Act for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine the sex of the foetus. The Appropriate Authorities at the District and State levels are empowered to search, seize

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.